



## RTCA in Rhode Island

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Rhode Island offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Rhode Island will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Seekonk Riverbank Revitalization** – The project goal is to make the park more park-like along the Seekonk River in the River Road corridor. This involves reducing pavement, creating safer traffic patterns, developing multi-use trail, providing shoreline restoration and state-of-the-art stormwater management. (Location: Providence, Rhode Island)
- **Groundwork Providence** – The project goal is to strengthen and sustain healthy and resilient urban communities by working closely with the city through education and employing young adults in green infrastructure jobs. (Location: Providence, Rhode Island)



Community members discuss options for River Road in a Community Design Workshop.

## Recent Success Story

**Seekonk Riverbank Revitalization** – When the Providence Department of Public Works closed River Road for drainage repairs several years ago, the neighbors recognized the opportunities to manage traffic, parking and stormwater and to create a healthier riverbank and improve the park experience. In 2015, with National Park Service assistance, volunteers held two public design workshops, secured \$10,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation and \$3,000 from individuals. The groups used the money to contract for professional design services resulting in revitalization plans. The group communicated with neighbors (some of whom were skeptical at first), engaged the city and worked proactively with regulatory agencies. As 2016 begins, this ambitious project has momentum and support from individuals, city and state officials and private partners.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Rhode Island contact:

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